

On Memorial Day 2015, the Blackfeet Nation was honored at the Montana Veterans Memorial in Great Falls.

I was proud to be the main speaker at that event, where 162 tiles were added to the walls of the memorial, in recognition of military veterans from the Blackfeet Nation. Mr. Fred DeRoche was one of the names added that day.

Fred died in battle, but his spirit and legacy live on in his son, Art, who I have the distinct pleasure of being here with today.

Art was raised by his great-grandmother, Rosie Big Beaver, on the Blackfeet reservation.

He grew up in Browning, married his wife, Shirley, and together, they raised three beautiful children here: Arthur, Jr., David James, and Jolene Anne.

Thank you all for being here to celebrate Fred's life and legacy of service to our State, the Blackfeet people, and this great Nation.

I have the profound honor of presenting Fred's son, Art De Roche, with his father's medals: Bronze Star; Purple Heart; European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with one Bronze Service Star; World War II Victory Medal; Combat Infantryman Badge; Belgian Fourragere; and Honorable Service Lapel Button WWII

Art, these medals serve as a small token of our country's appreciation for your father's heroic service and profound sacrifice.

He is truly an American hero, and we are eternally grateful for his service.

RECOGNIZING THE POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY AND THE MALAMA HONU WORLDWIDE VOYAGE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, Hawaii's traditional Polynesian voyaging canoe Hokulea and her crew are in the Washington, DC, area this week as part of its Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage. I would like to congratulate and honor the Polynesian Voyaging Society for its work in bringing about this significant endeavor to raise awareness of global sustainability while sharing traditional Polynesian navigation practices and creating global relationships through cultural exchanges. Hokulea will voyage over 60,000 miles to 100 ports in 27 nations, including 12 Marine World Heritage sites identified by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

Established in 1973, the Polynesian Voyaging Society developed a new generation of Polynesian navigators, perpetuating the teachings of Master Navigator Mau Piailug from the island of Satawal in the Federated States of Micronesia. The Polynesian Voyaging Society is largely credited with revolutionizing the perception of Polynesian-style voyaging as a sophisticated form of sailing and navigation.

In 1976, the Polynesian Voyaging Society completed construction of the double-hulled voyaging canoe named Hokulea, which translates to "star of

gladness." Hokulea is the first traditional voyaging canoe to be built in Hawaii in over 600 years and has since served as a cultural ambassador of Hawaii to the world.

Crew members observed patterns in the stars, sun, moon, wind, and ocean swells to guide Hokulea to Tahiti on her inaugural journey. The voyage demonstrated that Polynesian wayfinding methods could successfully be used to travel on long-distance journeys and revived a navigational method many assumed was lost.

In 2013, Hokulea and her sister canoe Hikianalia embarked on a journey around the State of Hawaii before commencing a 36-month worldwide voyage named Malama Honua, which means "to care for our Earth."

Since the journey began, Hokulea has visited 24 islands and six countries across Polynesia, Mauritius, South Africa, Brazil, and the East Coast of the United States, visiting States Florida, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, New York, and Washington, DC.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Polynesian Voyaging Society and the crews of Hokulea and Hikianalia and wish them smooth sailing as they continue the Malama Honua Worldwide Voyage.

I look forward to hearing of their many adventures upon completion of the voyage, and I encourage all of my colleagues to visit Hokulea while she is docked in Washington, DC.

TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL J. TAYLOR

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to COL Paul J. Taylor for his inspiring and honorable dedication to the U.S. Army and service to our Nation. Paul spent a year on Capitol Hill as an Army Congressional Fellow in the U.S. Senate where he learned valuable skills that prepared him for his service the last 3 years as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the Secretary of the Army. In this capacity, I have found Paul to be a critical resource and trusted confidant on all matters related to supporting our Army.

Colonel Taylor was nominated to attend the U.S. Military Academy from his home State of Connecticut and was commissioned an armor officer in 1993.

Colonel Taylor has served in a broad range of armor and cavalry assignments during his 23 years of service. As a junior officer, he served as a tank platoon leader, executive officer, and battalion maintenance officer in the 1st Infantry Division at Fort Riley, in my own State of Kansas. During his time with the Big Red One, he met the former Amy S. Boydston, from Centerville, KS. The two were married at Fort Riley and have experienced more than 20 years of Army life together, along with their three daughters: Lauren, Abigail, and Ella Kate.

Following his time at Fort Riley, Colonel Taylor attended advanced

training at Fort Knox, KY, and stayed to command two armor companies in the 1st Armored Training Brigade. Upon completion of command, Colonel Taylor was stationed in Doha, Qatar, as the operations officer responsible for one of the Army's forward positioned headquarters in the Middle East.

After returning from Qatar, Colonel Taylor was assigned to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA, the Army's premier training center, where he helped train units for deployment for 4 years. Colonel Taylor was next assigned to Fort Hood, TX, where he served as a brigade and battalion operations officer and executive officer in 4th Infantry Division, including a deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom in Iraq.

Following his assignment at Fort Hood, Colonel Taylor was selected through a highly competitive process to serve as an Army Congressional Fellow on the personal staff of my colleague Senator JOHN CORNYN of Texas. Following his fellowship, he was assigned to the Army's Office of the Chief of Legislative Liaison, where he served for 2 years as the Army's primary liaison for personnel issues to the U.S. Congress and the Armed Services Committees.

During this assignment, Colonel Taylor was selected for command of 1st Squadron, 32d Cavalry, in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, KY. Following command, he returned to the Pentagon, where he served for 3 years as a congressional budget liaison officer in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Financial Management and Comptroller. He expertly managed the Army's procurement and research, development, test, and evaluation portfolios, liaising with the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to provide critical resources for Army warfighters. His most recent assignment was the office's senior budget liaison, providing day-to-day leadership to 15 other budget liaisons who greatly benefited from his guidance and mentorship.

Over the last several years, Colonel Taylor has developed a close working relationship with my office. As much as his Kansas ties mean to me and my staff, equally valued is Paul's strength of character and humble approach in serving others. He represents the best in our Army, and he will always be welcome in my office and as part of our Kansas community. I wish Paul, his wife Amy, and his daughters Lauren, Abigail, and Ella Kate the very best as they transition from Army life and move home to Kansas.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I join my colleagues today in recognizing and commending COL Paul Taylor for more than 23 years of service to his country. Paul's leadership throughout his career has positively impacted his soldiers, peers, and superiors. We wish Paul, his wife Amy, and their children all the best as they continue their journey of service.